

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the cross reference, requested a supplemental reissue declaration, rejected claims 22-27, 29-30 and 34-43 due to minor informalities, rejected claims 28-29 under 35 USC § 251, rejected claims 28 and 30 under 35 USC § 102(b), and rejected claims 19-21, 28, 31-33 and 44-45 under 35 USC § 103(a). These objections and rejections are fully traversed below.

Claims 19, 21, 22, 28 and 30-36 have been amended to further clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 19-46 remain pending and are presented for reconsideration.

The specification has been amended to reference the application number corresponding to U.S. Patent 5,548,276 as requested by the Examiner. In addition, except for claim 29, the minor informalities identified by the Examiner are believed to have been corrected. Applicants respectfully disagree as to the Examiner's comment regarding an alleged informality of claim 29. Furthermore, a Supplemental Reissue Declaration is submitted herewith.

Claim 19 has been amended to substantially include the limitations of prior claims 21 and 22, thereby placing claim 19 in condition for allowance. Similarly, claim 28 has been amended to substantially include the limitations of prior claims 32 and 34, thereby placing claim 28 in condition for allowance. Prior claims 21, 22, 32 and 34 have been amended to include substantially different limitations.

The amendments to claim 28 also obviates the rejection of claims 28-29 under 35 USC § 251. Nevertheless, it should be noted that Applicant disagrees with the rejection of claims 28-29 under 35 USC § 251.

The rejections under 35 USC § 102(b) and 35 USC § 103(a) are also obviated by the amendments to claims 19 and 28. It should, however, be noted that Applicant disagrees with the rejections under 35 USC § 102(b) and 35 USC § 103(a). Thus, the various amendments are provided to expedite prosecution and are not to be deemed an admission or acquiescence to the Examiner's rejection or any relinquishment of subject matter by the Applicant.

Reconsideration of the application and an early notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner

is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 500388 (Order No. AET1P001R2).

Respectfully submitted,

BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



C. Douglass Thomas

Registration No.: 32,947

P.O. Box 778
Berkeley, CA 94704-0778